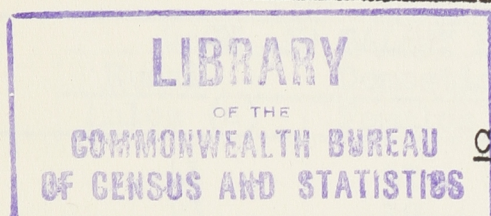


15th June, 1951.

B.S.E. 1951/4

NEW SOUTH WALES.

DIGEST OF CURRENT STATISTICS.



20 JUN 1951

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PART I : EMPLOYMENT & NON-RURAL INDUSTRIES

EMPLOYMENT = New South Wales

The latest figures available for the employment position in New South Wales are shown below. It will be seen that enlistments in the defence forces have so far not appreciably affected the work force. The number of men from this State serving full-time with the forces fell from 227,600 in June 1945 to 12,700 early in 1950; by March 1951 it had risen again to 15,900. Commonwealth Employment Service reports indicate that the labour shortage has not eased. At the end of March 1951 the number of vacancies registered with C.E.S. offices in New South Wales was 45,716 (123,286 in Australia) while 7,881 (18,039) persons were registered as awaiting employment or change of position. Only 433 persons in New South Wales (1190 in Australia) were receiving Unemployment Benefit at the end of March.

EMPLOYMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES (excl. Employers & Workers on own account) in thousands.

Month	WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN EMPLOYMENT.					Men from U.S.W. in Armed Forces.
	Rural	Domestic	All other Wage Earners			
	Males (a)	Females (b)	Males.	Females.	Total.	
1939 - July	41	52	530	168	698	6
1945 - July	23	19	541	247	788	224
1949 - April	32	x	718	269	987	13
1950 - April	34	x	737	278	1,015	13
1951 - February	x	x	755	288	1,043	16

(a) Ascertained in March: permanent employees only.

(b) Employed in private households x. Not available.

The net gain from migration for Australia in 1950, as in 1949, was about 150,000. The figure for March quarter 1951, 33,633, was less than a year before. The displaced persons scheme which contributed approx. 250,000 migrants since 1948 is now practically ended, and at present the main sources of new migrants, apart from the United Kingdom, seem to be Italy and Holland.

IMMIGRATION = Excess of Arrivals over Departures

	A u s t r a l i a					N.S.W. = Interstate & Oversea, Year
	March Q.	June Q.	Sept. Q.	Dec. Q.	Year	
1948	7,479	11,356	14,330	21,950	55,115	17,931
1949	25,688	39,178	35,671	49,464	150,001	74,143
1950	44,970	31,442	31,278	44,815	152,505	61,464
1951	33,633					

COAL PRODUCTION = New South Wales

Output of coal in April and May, with an average of about 250,000 tons a week, was higher than in the two previous months when weekly one-day stoppages reduced it to about 220,000 tons. Total output for 1951 up to the 19th May was 4.23 mill. tons; that is about the same as in the corresponding period of 1949 but slightly less than in 1950. Production from open-cuts continues to increase; it made up 16% of the 1951 total.

PRODUCTION OF COAL - New South Wales - in thousand tons.

	Year ended December				20 weeks ended		
	1947	1948	1949	1950	21/5/49	20/5/50	19/5/51
Underground ..	10,724	10,467	9,388	11,197	3,763	3,970	3,568
Open-cut ..	959	1,254	1,348	1,601	511	565	665
Total ..	11,683	11,721	10,736	12,798	4,274	4,535	4,233

Figures recently published by the Joint Coal Board show that the use of coal for public utilities and industries in New South Wales increased from about 8½ mill. tons a year in 1947 and 1948 to 9½ mill. tons in 1950, or nearly twice as much as in each year in the late thirties. The principal users in 1950 were iron & steel works (2.7m. tons), electricity works (2.4m. tons) and railways (1.5 m. tons); inspite of the increase, supplies to these users did not meet their full demand. Further coal requirements have decreased in recent years because of the decline and greater use of oil burners in coastal shipping. Oversea exports now are confined to small shipments to



Fiji and New Caledonia, and supplies to other States have fallen from their wartime peak to below the pre-war level. The proportion of New South Wales coal production exported from the State (excl. bunkers) was about 26% in 1942-45 and 17% in 1950.

# USES OF NEW SOUTH WALES COAL.

Used in New South Wales		1938-39	1943	1949	1950
		thousand	tons		
For Railway Loco.	...	994	1,501	1,348	1,516
Electricity	...	1,165	1,348	1,976	2,427
Gas	...	578	720	857	893
Other Industrial	...	3,007	3,966	3,532	4,706
Total - Industry & Public Utilities		5,744	7,535	7,713	9,542
Ships' Bunkers	...	928	670	522	485
Other	...	n.a.	749	315	395
TOTAL Used in New South Wales...		.	8,954	8,550	10,422
Exports (Cargo only)					
To Victoria	...	1,142	1,583	1,191	1,167
South Australia	...	586	926	729	788
Other States	...	132	259	174	158
Other Countries	...	382	222	56	48
TOTAL Exports	...	2,242	2,990	2,140	2,161

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES - New South Wales.

Final figures issued by the Department of Labour and Industry for the year 1950 show that the loss of man-working days through industrial disputes in New South Wales coal mines was the lowest since 1942, and before that, 1936. The Joint Coal Board estimates dispute losses in terms of production losses for 1950 at 1.3 mill. tons, or 9% of possible production, as against 1.5 to 2.9 mill. tons (11% to 21%) in the four preceding years. Production losses through other causes, in particular wet weather in open-cuts, sick leave and absenteeism cut production by 5% in 1950 (compared with 1% in earlier years). In terms of possible manshifts it is estimated that in underground mines in 1950 84% were worked (compared with 75% in 1949 and 80% in 1948), 5½% lost through industrial disputes, 6½% through absence on sick leave or compensation and 4% through other causes. In open cuts 90% of possible shifts were worked 3% lost through industrial disputes, 2½% through wet weather etc. and 2½% through sick leave or compensation. One of the main reasons given for disputes in 1950 was protest against working conditions while wage disputes were less frequent than in earlier years.

Dispute losses in other industries in 1950 were a little more than in 1949 or 1948 and about 80% above the pre-war average; employment in these industries has been growing - by about 47% since before the war. Most affected in 1950 were the waterfront with a loss of 110,000 m-w. days, equivalent to about 10 working days for each man employed, iron & steel industry 78,000, other factories 80,000, transport 16,000 and slaughtering 12,000.

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES & EMPLOYMENT, New South Wales.

Annual Averages	Industrial Disputes						Total Employment (a)		
	WORKERS INVOLVED			MAN DAYS LOST			In Coal Mines	In Factories	All Wage & Salary Earners
	Coal Mines	Other Empl.	Total	Coal Mines	Other Empl.	Total			
			in thousands						
1937-1939	169	24	193	466	178	644	17	220	698
1940-44	186	101	287	473	338	811	18	284	775
1945	221	103	324	630	1249	1879	18	302	786
1946	180	83	263	299	617	916	18	319	853
1947	220	79	299	388	739	1127	18	339	924
1948	225	52	277	471	304	775	19	355	964
1949	166	50	216	734	284	1018	19	363	992
1950	221	138	359	294	325	619	19	374	1019

(a) Excluding rural and female domestics. As at end of June 1939 to 1948 and 1950 and end of May in 1949.



Dispute losses to the end of April in 1951 have been greater than the progress figures for recent years, with 175,000 m.w. days in coal mines and 94,000 in other industries.

#### GAS & ELECTRICITY - New South Wales.

Production of gas and electricity in New South Wales has continued to increase in comparison with previous years. Gas output for the ten months ended April was 6% and electricity generation 14% higher in 1950-51 than in the previous record year (1948-49). The index of gas and electricity consumption for Sydney is now double the pre-war figure. Since the end of April 1951 electricity use in the interconnected system has been further restricted under a zoning system as available plant cannot cope fully with the winter demand.

	<u>Month of April -</u>			<u>Ten Months ended April -</u>			
	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1946</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>
<u>PRODUCTION - N.S.W.</u>							
Gas, mill. cub. ft.	1,536	1,535	1,652	12,271	15,013	14,583	15,963
Electricity, mill. kWh.	299	321	357	2,283	3,087	3,005	3,511

#### CONSUMPTION - Sydney - Gas & Electricity; seasonally adjusted Index

188	191	199	147x	179x	178x
x Index for year ended June.					

#### IRON & STEEL PRODUCTION - New South Wales.

Production of iron and steel lagged early in the year but recovered in March and April. The totals for the ten months ended April 1951, 966,000 tons of pig iron and 1.17 mill. tons of steel were the highest for this period since the end of the war.

#### PRODUCTION - thousand tons.

	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>Ten Months ended April -</u>			
	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>
<u>Pig Iron - N.S.W.</u>	85	81	93	107	768	738	814	966
<u>Pig Iron -</u>								
Whyalla, S.A.	Nil	5	6	8	184	130	96	115
<u>Ingot Steel-N.S.W.</u>	104	97	107	129	1,031	946	1,012	1,174

#### NEW SOUTH WALES RAILWAYS.

Freight and fare increases introduced in November last, and comparatively heavy traffic have increased railway earnings appreciably during the current year but running costs have mounted at a faster rate than earnings, exceeding them in February and March 1951 and leaving only a comparatively small working surplus (£80,000) in April.

The ten months ended April 1951 yielded a working surplus of £790,000, as compared with surpluses of over £4 mill. for the same period of earlier years (excepting 1949-50 which included the general coal strike).

#### NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

Year	<u>Ten Months ended April -</u>					<u>Month of April -</u>	
	Passenger Journeys	Goods (excl. Livestock)	Gross Earnings	Working Expenses	Net (a) Earnings	Passenger Journeys	Goods (excl. Livestock)
	Millions	Mill. tons	£mill.	£mill.	£mill.	Millions	Million tons
1939	156.3	11.98	15.81	11.60	4.21	15.1	1.14
1948	219.6	14.55	30.40	24.86	5.54	22.9	1.55
1949	218.9	14.32	32.96	28.72	4.24	22.7	1.33
1950	212.9	12.99	32.39	31.14	1.25	23.5	1.28
1951	224.2	14.14	39.73	38.94	.79	24.1	1.42

(a) Excess of gross earnings over working expenses; excluding Government contribution of £800,000 for developmental lines and Commonwealth grant of £3m. in 1949-50.



PART II: FINANCE AND TRADE

BANKING - General

The monetary expansion of recent years is reflected mainly in the rapid rise of trading bank deposits; the rise in the note issue has been smaller in comparison, and only a minor portion of the flow of new money has been going into the savings banks. Taking the four years ended April, 1950, savings deposits in Australia have risen by about a quarter and the note circulation by a third while trading bank deposits have doubled.

Since 1949 the most prominent factor in the increase in the internal money supply has been the rise in overseas reserves. A substantial increase in bank loans has added to the monetary expansion and recent trends in Government finance have probably had the same effect. For the eight months ended February, 1951, combined expenditure by the Commonwealth and State Governments have exceeded revenue by £34 mill, as against £5½ mill, in the same period of 1949-50. During the past two years banks' holdings of Government securities, including Treasury bills, which had been reduced in the two preceding years, were increased substantially.

The table below summarizes some of these trends within the whole Australian banking system; it is not complete, one major omission being the holdings of Government securities by the Savings banks which in June, 1950, were approx. £600 mill. (Comm. & State).

SOME SOURCES AND USES OF BANK FUNDS - Australia - £mill.

	<u>A s i n A p r i l</u>				<u>Increase from April to April</u>			
	1948	1949	1950	1951	1947-48	1948-49	1949-50	1950-51
(1) Gold & Foreign Balances	236	387	507	676	10	151	120	169
(2) Bank Advances	401	470	575	677	77	78	108	102
(3) Gov't Securities	542	492	528	636	-3	-50	36	108
Change 1, 2 & 3	---	---	---	---	84	179	264	379
(4) Notes held by public	174	186	200	234	-8	12	11	34
(5) Deposits, Trading Banks	790	929	1148	1482	54	142	228	334
(6) Deposits, Savings Banks	668	700	745	821	18	32	45	76
Change 4, 5 & 6	---	---	---	---	64	186	284	444

(1) Central Bank only (2) All cheque paying banks. Increases include £12 m. in 1949-50 for statistical adjustment; (3) Bonds, Treasury bills, etc., held by cheque-paying banks. Excludes Savings Banks which hold approx. £600 mill.; (5) See note to (2)

PRINCIPAL TRADING BANKS - AUSTRALIA

Trading bank deposits, following a seasonal pattern determined by the wool sales, rural seasonal demands, tax maturities, etc., usually rise continually for eight months from August to April and tend downward in the remaining four months. The eight months seasonal increment has progressively risen from £43 mill. in 1946/47 to £82 mill. in 1947/48, £155 mill. in 1948/49, £227 mill. in 1949/50 and £314 mill. in 1950/51. Total deposits at the end of April were £1297 mill, that is an increase of 27% since April 1950 and four times the level of the immediate pre-war years.

Trading bank advances have fluctuated a little in recent months but there is as yet no clear indication whether the restrictions imposed on new lending last November will reverse the strong upward trend in total loans of the last two years. In April 1951 advances were £502 mill. or 21% more than a year previously. Treasury bill holdings by the trading banks have been comparatively high in recent months, possibly because of extra finance requirements for war gratuity payments and in anticipation of end-of-the-year tax receipts and the new loan.

Continued



PRINCIPAL TRADING BANKS - Business within Australia

Month (Weekly Averages)	Deposits at	Balances	Advances	Public	Special	Treas	Cash	Ratios to	
	Credit of	due to	to	Secur-	A/c with	-ury	Items	Deposits	
	Customers (a)	other Banks	Custom- ers(a)	ities.	C/wlth Bank	Bills		Advan cos	Special A/c
	£million	£mill	£mill	£mill	£mill	£mill		%	%
1939-April	323	1	290	22	-	26	31	90	-
1948-April	709	17	338	59	280	31	50	48	40
1949-April	831	34	373	63	379	19	44	45	46
-August	791	38	390	73	326	13	47	49	41
1950-April	1018	41	415	95	457	29	54	41	45
-August	983	45	444	97	441	16	52	45	45
1951-March	1285	44	507	93	532	58	71	40	41
April	1297	48	502	88	557	57	69	39	43

(a) Following technical adjustments in bank returns, deposits and advances were reduced by £9 million as from January, 1949, and a further £3 mill. in July, 1949.

LIFE ASSURANCE - New Business - New South Wales.

The number of new ordinary policies issued in New South Wales in March quarter 1951 was about the same as in 1950 but the upward trend in average values per policy continued, raising the total assured on new ordinary policies from £10.16 mill. in March quarter 1950 to £12.71 mill. in 1951. Since the war new industrial business has declined in importance, and the number and value of new industrial policies in March quarter 1951 was less than in recent years, but this was more than offset by the growth in ordinary business. Parallel with the rise in the total assured on new policies there has been an increase in new loans granted by life assurance companies, mostly on mortgage and policy securities, from £2.32 mill. in March quarter 1948 to £2.36 mill. in 1949, £3.55 mill. in 1950 and £6.29 mill. in 1951.

LIFE ASSURANCE - NEW POLICIES ISSUED IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Period	Ordinary Department		Industrial Department		Total Sum Assured New Policies £millions
	No. of Policies	Sum Assured	No. of Policies	Sum Assured	
	thousands	£millions	thousands	£millions	
Year 1939 ..	50.5	18.18	156.8	7.54	25.72
1948 ..	96.5	47.45	114.5	11.07	58.52
1949 ..	92.4	49.66	114.9	11.43	61.09
1950 ..	95.4	59.50	106.6	11.13	70.63
March Quarter:					
1948	16.7	7.82	27.3	2.60	10.42
1949	16.3	8.74	24.7	2.45	11.19
1950	18.3	10.16	24.0	2.50	12.66
1951	18.7	12.71	19.5	2.17	14.88

SAVINGS BANK - New South Wales.

Savings Bank figures in March 1951 were influenced by the credit and partial withdrawal of war gratuities; there was a net increase of £14.3 mill. in total deposits. New deposits and withdrawals were comparatively high in April, possibly through the transfer of gratuities from other bank accounts and some drawing on gratuity credits; the net addition to balances of £700,000 for the month was small in comparison with other recent months. Total savings balances in New South Wales at the end of April reached £279.4 mill., that is about £26 mill. more than a year earlier and more than three times the pre-war figure.

Continued.



SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS (£million)

Period	New South Wales			TOTAL DEPOSITS End of Period.	
	Deposits Lodged	Withdrawals Made	Net Increase	N.S.W.	Australia
Year 1938-39	68.2x	67.2	1.0x	87.5	245.6
Year 1949-50	205.7x	191.3	14.4x	258.9	762.1
1950 - March	19.7	18.9	0.8	252.6	741.8
April	16.2	15.3	0.9	253.5	744.7
1951 - January	18.4	16.9	1.5	261.7	773.7
February	20.2	17.5	2.7	264.4	780.2
March	38.5	24.2	14.3	278.7	817.8
April	21.5	20.8	.7	279.4	820.6

x. Including interest credits of £1.6 m. in 1938-39 and £4.2 m. in 1949-50.

Deposits with all savings banks in Australia rose from £817.8 mill. at the end of March 1951 to £820.6 mill. in April.

RETAIL TRADE - Large Sydney Stores.

Turnover values of large Sydney stores in March quarter 1951 were 31% higher than a year previously. The Commonwealth Bank index of sales in these stores, based on 1938/39 = 100, was 246 in March 1949, 263 in March, 1950 and about 350 in March, 1951. Some, but not all, of this increase is due to higher prices.

RETAIL TRADE - LARGE SYDNEY STORES.

Percentage increase or decrease (-) on corresponding period of previous year.

	VALUE OF SALES				VALUE OF STOCKS (End of Period)			
	1947	1949	1950	1951	1947	1949	1950	1951
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
March Quarter	15	17	9	31	39	9	4	9
June Quarter	19	6	10	-	38	7	6	-
September "	24	(-)5	33	-	30	7	3	-
December "	17	10	16	-	26	5	9	-
YEAR	19	7	17	-	33	7	6	-

The main increases between March quarter 1950 and 1951 were in household piece-goods and men's wear, and turnover in other departments also rose appreciably. Stocks of piece-goods were much lower than two years before, and the increase in women's and men's wear has not kept pace with the probable rise in prices of these goods.

RETAIL TRADE - LARGE SYDNEY STORES.

Percentage increase or decrease (-) on previous year.

	VALUE OF SALES						VALUE OF STOCKS (End of Period)				
	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Piece Goods											
Household		31	21	2	28	64		29	22	-11	-29
Dress		16	5	1	-1	25		17	-1	-5	-9
Women's Wear		15	10	6	13	21		8	1	2	11
Men's Wear		16	19	14	18	40		27	28	5	6
Boots & Shoes		9	17	7	12	38		25	21	16	19
Furniture		43	24	5	25	31		31	-5	15	26
Hardware		32	29	10	21	37		33	11	6	7
Food		10	11	6	7	18		31	-	15	25
TOTAL (incl. others)		19	16	7	17	31		21	7	6	10

Continued



# NEW SOUTH WALES ACCOUNTS.

Comparing the ten months ended April, 1951 and April, 1950, an increase of £7½ mill. in governmental expenditure was matched by a corresponding increase in tax reimbursements, State taxes and other governmental receipts. Higher fares raised revenue from railway and tram and bus services by £4.24 mill. and £910,000 respectively but their working expenses rose by £7.76 mill. and £1.31 mill., with the result that the overall deficiency in the State accounts for the ten months rose from £1.86 mill. in 1949-50 to £5.59 mill. in 1950-51. With regard to this deficiency, it should be noted that the Commonwealth tax reimbursements for the remaining two months of the financial year will be considerably higher than earlier instalments. Works expenditure from loan funds in the ten months of 1950-51, £26 mill., was substantially higher than in earlier years.

## NEW SOUTH WALES ACCOUNTS - £ thousands.

Revenue Item	Ten Months Ended April		Budget Year	Expenditure Item.	Ten Months Ended April		Budget Year
	1950	1951	1950-51		1950	1951	1950-51
From Commonwealth(1)	21,121	24,850	33,450x	Net Debt Charges	13,187	14,021	16,509
State Taxation	9,019	11,207	12,544	Other excluding Debt Charges:-			
Other Governmental	10,100	11,612	14,345	Governmental	33,371	39,913	48,967
Railways (2)	34,805	39,045	51,311	Railways	31,150	38,913	46,461
Trans & Buses (2)	7,784	8,693	10,764	Trans & Buses	7,533	8,846	11,269
Sydney Harbour	1,331	1,600	1,707	Sydney Harbour	783	908	1,139
TOTAL REVENUE:	84,160	97,007	124,121	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	86,024	102,601	124,345

(1) Reimbursement of taxes and payments towards interest.

(2) Including in 1949 Commonwealth grant for strike losses; £3 mill. for railways and £200,000 for trans and buses.

x It was announced on 15th March that the Commonwealth tax reimbursements for New South Wales for the year 1950-51 would be raised from £30.53 mill. to £36.78 mill.

## SYDNEY STOCK EXCHANGE

The strong upward trend of recent months in share prices was halted towards the middle of May, and subsequently prices receded on the average by 1½ to 2%. The demand for shares remains strong, and in the first half of June prices have been steady near the level of the end of April.

In May 1951 the index numbers for industrial shares was 60% above, and for 75 companies 43 per cent. above the average for 1947, the first year of free post-war share trading.

## INDEX OF SHARE PRICES - Sydney (Compiled by N.S.W. Govt. Statistician) Prices of Ordinary Shares (excl. Banks) - Par Value = 100.

	Manufact'g & Distributing	Retail	Public Utilities	Pastoral Finance	Insurance	Total 75 Companies	34 Active Shares
1939-August	212.6	168.2	156.0	118.2	263.9	174.4	181.9
1942-March	173.0	138.3	120.8	110.3	213.7	140.6	147.0
1946-December	292.4	251.6	197.3	160.7	322.5	229.7	247.2
1949-May	340.8	283.2	158.8	177.1	469.5	251.4	256.5
1950-May	399.1	319.1	155.4	219.0	574.7	293.4	297.1
1951-March	492.4	385.2	168.7	305.2	698.6	350.3	343.3
-April	509.0	393.1	172.0	309.6	707.6	356.1	352.0
-May	527.5	397.7	177.2	307.8	734.2	365.7	360.4
		BASIS - YEAR 1947 = 100					
1951-May	160.0	128.3	91.6	180.8	187.0	143.0	134.0



The upward trend in Australian price levels gained momentum after the end of 1949. The most spectacular rises were in the export price index which advanced from an average of 332 in 1948-49 and 411 in March 1950 to a peak of 860 in March 1951 (all figures on the base 1936/37 to 38/39 = 100; series used includes gold). The price of wool, (which makes up almost half of total exports) nearly trebled over the year and prices for base metals and hides also rose steeply; price increases for goods sold under international contract, such as wheat, butter, meat and sugar, were not so great in comparison. The influence of the wool price is reflected in the fall of "All Groups" in April 1951 to 18% below the March peak; and a further drop of about 10% in the wool price for May will have a proportionate effect on the index.

EXPORT PRICE INDEX. Australia. Base 1936-37 to 1938-39 = 100

	Wool.	Wheat.	Butter.	Metals.	Meats.	Sugar.	Gold	All Groups (b)
1949-March	411	379	233	535	176	345	122	353
1950-March	524	420	250	411	200	394	176	411
1951-March (a)	1437	428	271	739	200	426	176	860
-April (a)	1094	432	271	774	200	426	176	705

(a) Subject to revision (b) Includes also dried fruits, tallow and hides.

Compared with exports, the price of imports, as shown by the Commonwealth Bank index, advanced slowly during the three years ending December 1950. Between December quarters 1949 and 1950 the total index rose by 13%, the principal increases being for raw materials (30%), food, drink and tobacco (18%) and piece goods (14%). In the wholesale price index the series for textile fibres advanced most, - from a pre-war base of 100 and 372 in February 1949 to 490 in 1950 and 1060 in 1951 (or 836 if the wool bounty is taken into account); the other component series showed smaller but appreciable gains. Since 1946 the advance in the series for goods principally home produced has been faster than in the series for goods mainly imported, thus offsetting the disparity which had existed during the war; compared with pre-war the advance in both series has been nearly the same (150% to 160%). The increase in the retail price index ("C" series, Sydney) between March quarters 1950 and 1951 was also considerably greater than the upward trend of earlier years, mainly because of a 25% increase in the food series and 16% increase in the clothing series over the year. Comparing March quarter 1951 with the 1936-37 to 38-39 average the increases were as follows: Food and Groceries 97%, Clothing 209%, Rent 8%, Miscellaneous 67%.

PRICE INDEXES - AUSTRALIA. BASIS 1936-37 to 1938-39 = 100

Quarter	Retail Prices (a)	Wholesale Prices (b)	Export Prices incl. gold.	Import Prices (c)
March 1945	126	140	131	199
March 1949	154	185	359	282
March 1950	168	210	416	312
Dec. 1950	186	241 (235)	628	343
March 1951 (d)	194	256 (251)	814	n.a.
Increase: March quarter to March quarter				
1948-49	9%	13%	17%	3%
1949-50	9%	13%	16%	11%
1950-51	15%	21% (19%) (d)	96%(d)	(d) 13% (Dec.)

(a) All items "C" series, Sydney. (b) Index No. shown in brackets take account of Wool bounty; other series based on auction price of wool. For 1951 month of February is shown instead of average for March quarter

(c) Commonwealth Bank Index (d) Subject to revision.

CASH ORDERS = New South Wales.

The value of cash orders issued in recent years has tended upwards but as the number issued has not risen appreciably the increase in value may be due mostly to higher prices for clothing and household goods. The increase has been less than the rise in retail turnovers in the last three years, and cash order trade is now apparently much less significant than before the war. Retail turnovers in New South Wales for 1949-50 were estimated at \$533 mill. and the value of cash orders issued in that year was only \$3 mill.



CASH ORDERS ISSUED - New South Wales

Year	Quarter Ended				Total for Year	
	March	June	September	December	Value	Number
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	000 (b)
1939 (a)					2,867	
1946	282	551	453	734	2,020	314
1947	337	693	585	915	2,530	274
1948	388	825	651	1,033	2,897	292
1949	439	861	618	1,113	3,031	291
1950	475	965	802	1,181	3,423	303
1951	570					
Increase on Previous Year	20%	12%	30%	6%	12%	4%

(a) Report on Cash Orders, 1941. (b) Incomplete, refers to approx. two thirds of total value

OVERSEA TRADE = Australia.

The rapid increase in export prices during 1950-51 led to an increase in export values from £486 m. in the ten months ended April 1950 to £803 m. in the same period of 1950-51, a rise of 65%. Import values, rose by 38%, and the net export balance of £213 m. for the 1950-51 period was far in excess of ~~that~~ for earlier years.

OVERSEA TRADE - Australia - F.o.B. Values - £mill.

		Ten Months ended April				
		1939	1948	1949	1950	1951
Merchandise - Exports		104	322	442	486	803
	Imports	94	275	339	426	590
	Balance	10	47	103	60	213
Bullion & Specie						
	Balance	13	3	-	-	-
T o t a l	Balance	23	50	103	60	213

Excepting wheat and flour, quantities of major commodities shipped in the 1950-51 period were less than in 1949-50, and in the case of meats, butter and lead, also well below the pre-war figures. Wool shipments made up two thirds of the export value in 1950-51, that is a much greater proportion than in earlier years.

EXPORTS OF CERTAIN COMMODITIES, AUSTRALIA, Ten Months ended April

		Quantities (millions)			Values (\$millions)				
		Unit	1939	1950	1951	1939	1949	1950	1951
Wool :	Greasy	lb	714	883	772	33.9	155.4	212.1	457.4
	Scoured etc.	lb.	60	130	111	4.5	28.8	36.2	67.9
Wheat		bushel	51	62	70	7.2	50.9	47.3	60.5
Wheaten Flour		lb	1165	1242	1362	3.7	29.5	21.3	25.6
Butter		lb	186	150	117	9.9	20.9	21.1	16.4
Meat - Frozen (a)		lb	400	328	178	8.4	9.1	12.3	7.9
	Tinned	lb	12	89	80	.4	6.3	6.2	8.1
Skins - Sheep		no.	12	15	11	2.1	5.9	9.3	17.4
Pig Lead		ton	.168	.101	.073	3.6	19.3	10.0	9.5

(a) Beef, Lamb and Mutton.

By countries, the principal feature in 1950-51 was the rise in exports to the United States, from £40m. to £121m., almost all of it wool, and the revival of trade with the ex-enemy countries, Germany, Italy and Japan. There was no corresponding rise in imports from the United States and the trade balance with dollar area countries turned from an import surplus of £5m. in 1949-50 (ten months) to an export surplus of £79m. in 1950-51. Notable increases in import values from all countries between 1949-50 and 1950-51 were as follows: motor vehicles and parts from £56m. to £69m., petroleum from £23m. to £32m., iron and steel plate and sheet from £12m. to £23m., crude rubber from £3m. to £15m. and raw cotton from £3m. to £8m.



PART III - RURAL INDUSTRIES.

THE SEASON.

Comparatively little rain fell in March and April, which seriously retarded wheat sowing and affected dairy production. Some relief was given by good rainfalls towards the end of May and early June, and the pasture position has improved. Lateness of the rain restricted wheat sowing in some districts.

RAINFALL INDEX - NEW SOUTH WALES - "Normal Rainfall" = 100 for each Month and Year.

	Sheep Districts.					Wheat Districts.				Coastal Dairying Districts.			
	N.	C.	S.	W.	Total.	N.	C.	S.	Total.	N.	C.	S.	Total.
1949-Year	126	112	110	129	117	126	113	110	113	107	147	129	120
1950-Year	176	212	164	195	184	170	194	160	170	173	188	209	182
1951-Mar.	86	72	11	20	50	65	74	9	33	125	136	113	126
-Apr.	39	51	94	29	59	46	53	91	75	32	31	16	30
-May	73	107	129	84	102	68	95	141	121	64	46	87	62

WOOL.

Progress figures for the eleven months ended May indicate that the volume of wool deliveries into New South Wales stores (Sydney, Goulburn and Newcastle) and sales at these centres in the 1950-51 season will be near the post-war record level of 1949-50. Disposals by sale or shipment up to the end of May 1951 (1.21 mill bales) exceeded those for any full season since 1943-44, excepting 1949-50. Only a comparatively small balance remained unsold in store by the end of May. The value of wool sold at auction up to the end of May 1951, £222 mill., was twice as much as the result for the full 1949-50 season and far in excess of any previous yield.

RECEIVALS, DISPOSALS AND STOCKS OF WOOL.  
(N. S. W. Stores, excl. Albury - Thousand Bales)

Volume of Sales.	1950-51			1949-50	1948-49
	Sydney	Newcastle & Goulburn.	Total N.S.W.	Total N.S.W.	Total N.S.W.
Carry over from June	12	1	13	79	15
Receipts in July-May	1021	225	1246	1288	1191
Total	1033	226	1259	1367	1206
Disposals, July-May x	994	215	1209	1305	969
Balance in Store at end of May	39	11	50	62	237
Value of Sales August-May £ mill.	180.6	41.5	222.1	98.7	58.2

x Sales and shipments ex store.

The wool price (N.S.W., full clip average) rose during the current season from 78½d. per lb. greasy in July 1950 to 190½d. in March 1951, and subsequently dropped to 129d. in May. Buying competition weakened perceptibly during the past two months but the demand at the reduced price levels was still strong and full clearances were effected at all sales.

AVERAGE PRICE OF GREASY WOOL - NEW SOUTH WALES - Pence per lb. greasy.

Season ended 30th June	d. per lb.	Month (a)	d. per lb.
1939	10.3	1950 - May	81.0
1947	23.6	- September	118.0
1948	37.9	1951 - March	190.5(b)
1949	46.8	April	145.0(b)
1950	21.8	May	129.0(b)

(a) Average that would be realised if whole clip were sold at price level of that month. (b) Subject to revision.



# DAIRYING.

The drop in New South Wales (and Queensland) dairy output from February onward was considerably greater in 1951 than in earlier years. Pastures deteriorated because of insufficient rain and generally inadequate fodder reserves. Butter was particularly affected by the sudden drop in milk supplies; factory production in New South Wales fell from 11 mill. lbs. in January to 5 mill. lbs. in April, the lowest for that month since 1923.

## PRODUCTION OF BUTTER IN FACTORIES, New South Wales - million lbs.

Period.	Average 1937-38 to 1939-40.	1946-47	1947-48	1948-49	1949-50	1950-51
July to December	54.22	24.54	33.81	33.86	41.33	40.00
January	12.31	6.39	11.37	8.63	8.91	10.83
February	11.82	7.38	8.69	8.24	8.41	8.28
March	11.37	8.05	8.21	9.02	9.30	7.38
April	10.04	5.74	6.15	6.78	6.27	5.08
Total - 10 Months	99.76	52.10	68.23	66.53	74.22	71.57

## WHOLEMILK PRODUCTION, NEW SOUTH WALES - mill. gall.

July to December	n.a.	115.2	138.2	138.6	154.6	153.7
January	n.a.	24.5	37.5	30.5	31.4	36.0
February	n.a.	26.2	31.1	29.4	29.5	30.0
March	n.a.	24.5	37.5	31.1	31.4	27.0
Total - 9 Months	n.a.	190.4	244.3	229.6	246.9	246.7

The sharp fall in butter production in New South Wales and in Queensland (which usually supplements this State's supplies in winter) led to a cut in consumer supplies. Apart from the growth in population the local demand for butter has increased during the past twelve months because of the lifting of rationing (as from 17th June 1950); annual consumption per head in Australia averaged 33 lbs. in the three years preceding the war and was reduced to about 25 lbs. in the last years of rationing. On the basis of pre-war consumption the present Australian population would require about 285 mill. lbs. a year; production in 1949-50 was 385 mill. lbs. and may be less this year. This would leave less than 100 mill. lbs. or approximately one quarter of total output for export, while in 1936-39 exports averaged 200 mill. lbs. a year or nearly half of the output.

The table below shows that the decline in Australian butter output in recent years was not caused by a fall in dairy production but by the increased use of milk for other purposes, such as fresh milk and processed products. Use of milk, other than for butter, has increased by about two-thirds since 1939; some of the processed products are exported but local use, per head of population, of fresh and processed milk (other than butter) also increased by about one-quarter.

## SUPPLY AND UTILIZATION OF MILK - Australia.

Used for -	Average 3 Years ended June 1939	Year ended June -		
		1948	1949	1950
	Million Gallons of Wholemilk.			
Butter ...	892	763	781	817
Cheese ...	55	90	94	97
Condensary Products	33	78	88	87
Other Purposes	162	242	250	252
Total Production - Wholemilk	1,142	1,173	1,213	1,253
Australian Consumption - lb. per Head of Population.				
Fluid Whole Milk - gallons	23	31	31	30½
Fresh Cream - Actual Weight	6	1	1	1
Condensed Milk - " "	3	5	4	5
Concentrated Whole Milk " "	1	4	4	4
Powdered Milk - Actual Weight	3	4	4	3
Infants', Invalids', Malted "	1	2	1	1
Cheese, - Actual Weight	4	6	5	6
Total - As Milk Solids	39	49	50	49
Butter - Actual Weight	33	25	24	25